

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computing environment for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of computer users, a method for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of computer users associated with the document, the method comprising:

an act of receiving the handwritten annotation data from a first user among the a plurality of computer users, each user having annotation access to a public data entry area available to each of the plurality of users, the public data entry area for sharing handwritten annotations received from one or more of the plurality of users with one or more other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users;

an act of determining that the handwritten annotation data is public data;

an act of automatically writing the handwritten annotation data of the first user to a shared-canvas public data entry area in response to the determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data, ~~the shared canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of users with any other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users;~~ and

an act of adding at least one of the plurality of computer users to a list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first user's handwritten annotations;

an act of denying at least one of the plurality of computer users from being added to the list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first user's handwritten annotations; and

an act of distributing the ~~shared canvas, including any shared~~ first user's handwritten annotations, to ~~at least one device of at least one~~ those recipient subscribers that are on the list of subscribers to the first user's annotations.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the annotation data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises combining the handwritten annotation data with other annotation data on a ~~shared canvas~~ the public data entry area.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the ~~shared canvas~~ the public data entry area corresponds to a page of a publication, and wherein receiving handwritten annotation data comprises receiving handwritten strokes corresponding to the page.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the annotation data to at least one recipient subscriber comprises combining the handwritten annotation data with other annotation data on a graffiti page.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein receiving handwritten annotation data comprises receiving handwritten strokes independent of any page of a publication.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 1 wherein sending the handwritten annotation data comprises automatically updating a subscriber.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 1 further comprising, receiving a request from a computing device corresponding to a subscriber user, and wherein sending the handwritten annotation data comprises providing the annotation data in response to the request.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising, persisting the handwritten annotation data.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising, receiving data corresponding to a page of a publication, and wherein persisting the handwritten annotation data comprises persisting the handwritten annotation data in association with the page.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) In a computer network having a server and clients for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of clients, a system for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of clients associated with the document, the system comprising:

an annotation device that is a client of the server, the annotation device including an annotations program that manages handwritten annotations input by a first client that is among the plurality of clients, each client having annotation access to a public data entry area available to each of the plurality of clients, the public data entry area for sharing handwritten annotations received from one or more of the plurality of clients with one or more other of the plurality of clients such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of clients, and includes at least one operating mode configured to write the handwritten annotation data of the first client to a shared-canvas public data entry area in response to a determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data, ~~the shared canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of clients with any other of the plurality of clients such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of clients handwritten annotations;~~ and

a determining mechanism that determines that the handwritten annotation data is public data;

a subscription determining mechanism configured to:

add at least one of the plurality of computer clients to a list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first client's handwritten annotations; and

deny at least one of the plurality of computer clients from being added to the list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first client's handwritten annotations; and

a send mechanism that sends the shared canvas, including any shared first client's handwritten annotations to a server for distribution to at least some of the plurality of clients those recipient subscribers that are on the list of subscribers to the first client's annotations, the shared handwritten annotations identified as public and selectively published to at least one client and not published to at least one other client.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the send mechanism comprises a

background send thread of the annotation device.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation program displays a page of a publication, and wherein the handwritten annotations are received in association with the displayed page.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15 wherein the send mechanism provides an identity of the author, an identifier of the page of the publication and stroke data corresponding to the handwritten annotations to the server.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations program includes at least one other operating mode in which received handwritten annotations are private.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations program provides at least one warning to the author when the operating mode is one in which the input handwritten annotations are to be published.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received handwritten annotations are to be published comprises a presentation page notation mode in which annotations are distributed by the server to subscriber clients.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received handwritten annotations are to be published comprises a shared canvas mode corresponding to a publication page in which handwritten annotations are distributed by the server to any other client in association with that publication page.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein one operating mode in which received handwritten annotations are to be published comprises a graffiti page canvas mode in which annotations are distributed by the server to any other client.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotations device

includes a receive mechanism that receives handwritten annotations published by at least one other client and provides those annotations to the annotation program for presentation.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the handwritten annotations device combines the received published handwritten annotations with the handwritten annotations input by the author for displaying to that author.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the receive mechanism comprises a background receive thread.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the received handwritten annotations correspond to a shared canvas mode in which any client receives data from any other handwritten annotations publisher in association with a publication page.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the received handwritten annotations correspond to a graffiti mode in which any client receives data from any publisher that is operating in the graffiti mode.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation device further comprises a mechanism for subscribing to receive the public handwritten annotations of another ~~user~~ client.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the annotation device further comprises a mechanism for filtering which handwritten annotations are presented.

29-34. (Cancelled).

35. (Currently Amended) In a computing environment for propagating annotations to electronic documents among a plurality of computer users, a method for sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of computer users, the method comprising:

an act of an annotations program receiving from a first computer user handwritten annotation data for selectively sharing via a ~~shared-canvas~~ public data entry area, each user having annotation access to a public data entry area available to each of the plurality of users, the public data entry area for sharing handwritten annotations received from one or more of the plurality of users with one or more other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users, ~~the shared-canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of users with any other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users;~~

an act of adding at least one of the plurality of computer users to a list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first user's handwritten annotations;

an act of denying at least one of the plurality of computer users from being added to the list of subscribers that are subscribed to access the first user's handwritten annotations; and

an act of sending the first user's handwritten annotation data to a server for combining with other handwritten annotation data on a ~~shared-canvas~~ the public data entry area in response to a determination that the first user's handwritten annotation data is public data and that those computer users that are to be recipients of the first user's handwritten annotation data combined with the other handwritten annotation data are subscribed to access the first user's handwritten annotations; and

an act of a computer user receiving from the server an updated ~~shared-canvas~~ public data entry area including the first user's handwritten annotation data and the handwritten annotation data entered by other computer users of the plurality of computer users.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising using a time-based filter to limit the annotations displayed with the document on the ~~shared-canvas~~ public data entry area to those annotations input before a certain time or date.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising using an author-based filter to limit the annotations displayed with the document on the ~~shared-canvas~~ public data entry area to those annotations input by one or more specified users.